

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A system for withdrawing body fluid, comprising:
a lancing unit configured to couple to a drive unit, the lancing unit including
a detection zone configured to analyze the body fluid, and
a capillary structure having a lancing tip configured to cut an incision in skin, the
lancing tip defining a capillary groove for drawing the body fluid from the incision to the
detection zone via capillary action, wherein the capillary groove opens longitudinally
along the outside of the lancing tip to permit collection of the body fluid along the length
of the lancing tip;

wherein the lancing unit includes a holding area in which a portion of the capillary
structure is arranged;

wherein the holding area has a distal end from where the lancing tip extends and a top
surface;

wherein the capillary groove opens along the top surface of the holding area;

wherein the lancing unit includes a plate capping the holding area;

wherein the plate covers a portion of the capillary groove; and

wherein the plate defines a window over the detection zone.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, further comprising:
the drive unit, wherein the drive unit is coupled to the lancing unit.

Claims 26-27 (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the capillary structure includes a pair of needles joined together.

29. (Currently amended) A system for withdrawing body fluid, comprising: a lancing unit configured to couple to a drive unit, the lancing unit including a detection zone configured to analyze the body fluid, and a capillary structure having a lancing tip configured to cut an incision in skin, the lancing tip defining a capillary groove for drawing the body fluid from the incision to the detection zone via capillary action, wherein the capillary groove opens longitudinally along the outside of the lancing tip to permit collection of the body fluid along the length of the lancing tip; and

~~The system of claim 24,~~ wherein the capillary structure includes a stranded wire with the capillary groove formed between adjacent wires.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the capillary structure includes a solid needle with the capillary groove defined therein.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the detection zone includes an optical detector for analyzing the body fluid.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the detection zone includes an electrochemical detector for analyzing the body fluid.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein:
the lancing tip has a distal end that initially contacts the skin during lancing; and
the capillary groove further opens at the distal end of the lancing tip.

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
a disposable lancing device comprising
a holding area having a surface,
a lancing tip extending from the holding area for piercing skin, the lancing tip having a distal end that initially contacts the skin during piercing of the skin, the holding area and the lancing tip being a monolithic structure,
a detection zone disposed on the holding area for detecting analyte in body fluid,
and
the holding area having an open capillary groove, the capillary groove opening along the surface of the holding area from the distal end of the lancing tip to the detection zone for transporting the body fluid via capillary action to the detection zone, the capillary groove being uncovered along the entire length of the lancing tip to permit collection of the body fluid along the entire length of the lancing tip.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:
a drive unit coupled to the disposable lancing device for firing the disposable lancing device.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein:
the lancing device includes a plate capping a portion of the capillary groove over the holding area; and
the plate defines a window over the detection zone.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the detection zone includes a reagent configured for optical detection of the analyte.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the detection zone includes a reagent configured for electrochemical detection of the analyte.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the capillary groove further opens at the distal end of the lancing tip.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the holding area is made from a semiconductor material.